

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended): A method of controlling the transmission and reception of a frame in a LAN system comprising the steps of:

adding timing information as to a timing of transmitting a next frame from each terminal to a current frame when said current frame is transmitted from said each terminal onto a shared transmission line;

providing a timing reservation management table and a timer which measures time at certain interval of time and outputs the time as an address of said table in each terminal;

extracting said timing information from said current frame which is transmitted onto said shared transmission line from other another terminal;

reserving both the timing (A) of receiving said next frame from said other terminal and the timing (B) of transmitting a next frame from its own terminal by recording 'frame transmission by other terminal' and 'frame transmission by its own terminal' respectively in addresses of said timing reservation management table, a number of addresses being determined based upon said timing (A) and timing (B) in said timing reservation management table; and

transmitting the next frame onto said shared transmission line when said timing (B) of transmitting said next frame from its own terminal comes by reference to said timing reservation management table.

2.(currently amended): A method of controlling the transmission and reception of a frame according to Claim 1, wherein all other terminals reserve the next frame transmitting timing information.

3. (currently amended): A method of controlling the transmission and reception of a frame according to Claim 1, wherein said timing information for the next frame is disposed at the front portion of a preamble which is added to said frame and transmitted onto the shared transmission line.

4. (currently amended): A method of controlling the transmission and reception of a frame according to Claim 1, wherein when data short of a prescribed size is transmitted with a carrier extension added thereto to satisfy said prescribed size, said timing information for the next frame is inserted into said carrier extension.

5. (original): A method of controlling the transmission and reception of a frame according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

dividing data into a former data having a prescribed size and a latter data when the size of said data is larger than said prescribed size;

determining said timing information for a latter frame containing said latter data on the basis of the time required for transmitting a former frame containing said former data; and

regarding said latter frame as a next frame and adding said timing information for said latter frame to said former frame.

6. (cancelled):

7. (currently amended): A method of controlling the transmission and reception of a frame according to Claim 1, further comprising the step steps of:

~~providing a wherein said~~ timer which increments at certain intervals of time in each terminal;

~~using the time measured by said timer as an address; and~~

recording one selected from the group consisting of 'frame transmission by other terminal terminals', 'frame transmission by its own terminal' and 'vacant' at a storage portion of said timing reservation management table which is indexed by said address.

8. (original): A method of controlling the transmission and reception of a frame according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of changing the unit of said increment of said timer in accordance with the type of said network.

9. (currently amended): A LAN interface apparatus in a LAN system, comprising:

a transmitting timing information adding portion for adding timing information as to the timing of transmitting a next frame to a current frame whereby said current frame is transmitted onto a shared transmission line;

a timing extractor for extracting said timing information from a frame which is transmitted onto said shared transmission line from either another terminal,

a timing reservation management table for reserving a timing (B) of transmitting a next frame from its own terminal and a timing (A) of receiving a next frame from said other terminal; and

a timer which measures time at certain interval of time and outputs the time as an address of said table;

a table management portion for recording 'frame transmission by other terminal' and 'frame transmission by its own terminal' respectively in an address of said timing reservation management table, a number of addresses being determined based upon said timing (A) and timing (B); and

a timing controller for prohibiting a frame from being transmitted from its own terminal at said timing (A) of receiving a frame from said other terminal, while allowing a frame to be transmitted from its own terminal onto said shared transmission line when said timing (B) of transmitting a next frame comes by reference to said timing reservation management table.

10.(original): A LAN interface apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a buffer controller for queuing packets to be transmitted and outputting a predetermined packet when the transmission of said packet is instructed by said timing controller; and

a frame assembler for assembling said packet into a frame,

wherein said transmitting timing information adding portion adds said timing information for the next frame to said frame which is output from said frame assembler.

11. (original): A LAN interface apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said buffer controller divides a packet to be transmitted into a former packet having a prescribed size and a latter packet when the size of said packet is larger than said prescribed size, and queues said former and latter packets, and said transmitting timing information adding portion determines

said timing information for a latter frame which is assembled by using said latter packet, on the basis of the time required for transmitting a former frame which is assembled by using said former packet, and regards the latter frame as a next frame and adds the determined timing information to the former frame.

12. (currently amended): A LAN interface apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

[[a]] said timer which increments at certain intervals of time; and

[[a]] said table management portion ~~for using the time measured by said timer as an address, and~~ recording one selected from the group consisting of 'frame transmission by other terminal terminals,' 'frame transmission by its own terminal' and 'vacant' at the storage portion of said timing reservation management table which is indexed by said address.

13. (original): A LAN interface apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising:
a means for detecting the transmission speed of said transmission line; and
a means for determining the unit of increment of said timer on the basis of said transmission speed.